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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

BOOK NOTICES.

AN AUTHORIZED LIFE OF LINCOLN will be the literary feature of THE CENTURY MAGAZINE for 1887, the first chapters appearing in the November issue.

The "Life" has been written by John George Nicolay and John Hay, both having been private and confidential secretaries to the great President, and in that way enjoying exceptional opportunities for the study of his character and the accumulation of facts concerning the private side of his public life that could have been reached by no other persons and in no other manner, than through the most intimate relation with his daily habits and thoughts.

There is no individual life in the modern history of the United States that divides interest with Abraham Lincoln, his memory is more carefully cherished and his virtues more earnestly protected by the people of this country than any other public man in its entire history since the days of Washington. The glory of Grant in no way obtrudes upon that of Lincoln, although the conqueror of the Rebellion stands alone in his fame and probably will so stand as long as the nation exists. The history of Lincoln is an ever fresh appeal to our patriotism as well as our interest in all that is interesting about us, and such a narrative as this forthcoming CENTURY "Life" will be filled with the inside explanation and elucidation of Mr. Lincoln's greatest acts and casting a light upon the events of the times that has never yet been cast, should command readers wherever America is known.

The October CENTURY ends Mr. Stockton's three part novel-ette, and brings his heroines to a safe and satisfactory haven. There is a very clever article (we can guarantee its accuracy) on "Europe on Nothing-Certain a Year." The American Explorers at Assos have a descriptive article of considerable value well explained by numerous illustrations. The Biographers of Lincoln have a fulsome eulogist in Mr. King. Burdett says it is not the funny men in this world that gives us humor, it is the serious people. This is forcibly illustrated in General Rosecrans' article on the battle of Corinth, wherein he explains away his incompetency by his ignorance of what the enemy was going to do, and groans "how gratifying (to me) would have been knowledge of the following facts, &c.," and quotes from the Confederate generals report of the battle and his own movements, found probably at the end of the war. Rosecrans' regrets such knowledge as this in several instances, and apparently regards it as a "mean trick" that the rebels should have concealed their intended moves. They didn't treat him as he did them. It is no wonder this general was removed if he waited for such information before earning a victory.

Altogether this number of the Century is an exceptional one and most valuable in its contents.

SOME hypercritical persons have complained that Edgar Fawcett sacrifices matter to style, and thinks more of his diction than his plot. So long as it is conceded by the majority that the highest order of literature recognizes elegance of composition as paramount, so long will Mr. Fawcett be popular, though it cannot be urged with any justice that his thoughts suffer at all in interest by the attention he gives the language which conveys them.

In the last of Mr. Fawcett's many works, The House at High Bridge, there is a pleasant culmination of his past experience, and the beauty of his sentences and perfection of his plot produces a most felicitous and happy volume.

This last story is a literary one in its purest sense, finished, clean cut and delightful, every page leading us to anticipate the pleasures of its successor, and the enjoyment of the reading increasing as we get further into it. (TICKNOR & Co., Boston).

THE RESTAURATEUR is a journal devoted to the interests of the restaurant business, and made its debut on the first of October. Its articles are well written and exceedingly interesting, one especially condensing the reports of several United States Consuls on the wine industry is valuable as well as agreeable reading. A feature of the magazine which will be a useful one, is the introduction of illustrations of the new and prominent restaurants, showing their fittings and decorations, giving many suggestions to those fitting up similar establishments. The confusion always attending a first number is probably the reason so many articles are credited to other publications. There is field for the journal, and it will succeed if, among other things, it makes its reading matters brief and pithy and original. (J. W. PRATT & SON, New York City).

THE season for the Gotham Art Students commenced October 4. The instructors are Walter Shirlaw, H. Siddons Mowbray, J. Carroll Beckwith, and Max Schwargott, and the classes are devoted to casts and modeling, life class for both men and women, composition class as well as lectures on various subjects interesting to art students.

THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY have been a copious source of stories, and there is such a veil of romance shielding that period from our rational eyes that we are accustomed to see it only in its attractive phase, and find an interest in the very title that suggests that age, without enquiring into the merits of the tale itself. "Under Bayard's Banner" is one of those books whose title arouses our medieval interest and prompts us to read a while out of mere courtesy to the old times that Bulfinch has made familiar to us.

This volume is written by Henry Frith, who has no especial style in his writing, but who makes a readable and worthy narrative that is well enough written to be deserving of a careful perusal, and contains enough history to be instructive. The cover is atrocious. CASSELL & Co., New York.

"FLOWERS AND HOW TO PAINT THEM" is a useful book by Maud Naffel, giving ten plates handsomely lithographed in the natural colors, of the ten most prominent flowers, three roses, pelargonium, lily, hollyhock, anemone, chrysanthemum, pansy and tulip, accompanied by an explanatory text that is plentifully illustrated with cuts in black and white, indicating the formation of the leaves and stems, &c., and giving the fullest possible instruction as to the manner of drawing. It is the handsomest, the most instructive work upon the subject that we know of, written in a manner that may be readily comprehended, and conveying a great deal of valuable information, while the colored plates being all good are worthy of a frame and a conspicuous place. Published by CASSELL & Co.

THE selection of illustrations in *American Art*, the new Boston publication, speaks very well for the good taste of its managers, for they are culled from the best head and tail pieces that have appeared in *English Art and Letters* and our own esteemed but defunct *Art and Decoration*. In fact, were it not for those two magazines the Boston venture would be pictureless. The social standing of the contributors, whose names figure upon the last page, is ample compensation for the absence of artistic or literary reputation. The "make up" of the journal was evidently the last detail that received attention, and what might have been a good etching of Bicknells was spoiled in the printing. Some artistic cuts in the advertisements are thereby quite noticeable.—AMERICAN ART MAGAZINE Co., Boston.

NO TIME could be more suitable for the presentation of a work on the adornment of the wall than the present when decorative art is at the height of its popularity, and the employment of fresco is almost universally approved. Frederic Crowninshield, than whom no worthier authority could be had, has compiled and written a volume entitled "Mural Painting," giving a history in completest detail of this art, copiously illustrated with woodcuts and heliotypes pertinent to the subject, and admirably marking the progress of mural work up to the present time. There is a vast amount of valuable and entertaining information that will be welcome to the trade and will serve to instruct the non-practical readers in a pleasant manner, commanding ready attention. (TICKNOR & Co., Boston).

LITTLE LORD FOUNTLEEROY, by Mrs. Burnet, has been published by SCRIBNER'S SONS (New York), reprinted from the pages of the *St. Nicholas*. The story is one of the best for children that has been written, and has a merit that commends it to those who claim to have outgrown childhood.

It is beautifully bound with a cover by George R. Halm, noticeable for its appropriateness, its neatness and its originality.

It will make the most acceptable book for a present that we know of.

JOHN CROUMBIE BROWN, LL.D., of Edinburgh, has written still another volume on the subject of Forestry, this time it is entitled "School of Forest Engineers in Spain," and is given to the English evidently with the purpose of encouraging such a school in England. This is the eleventh work Mr. Brown has written concerning Forestry, and each one is complete and interesting in itself, and exceeding valuable to any one interested in that matter, as we all should be more or less. Published by OLIVER & BOYD, Edinburgh, Scotland.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for November is an exceeding good number, the social and historical paper, being especially noticeable. "A Coup d'Etat," tells of a people and a perplexity that gathers its interest principally from their novelty to American readers. It is worthy of a careful reading. Phillip Gilbert Hamilton's third paper on French and English is of course good and the critico-triographical sketch of H. H. Richardson is deserving of its subject.

WE have received a very neat invitation from BRADSTREET, THURBER & Co., of Minneapolis, to their annual exhibition. The invitation is prettily gotten up in antique paper and held together by a diminutive leather strap and a pretentious seal. It is in every way creditable.